THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Uniform service condition in department of Telecom.

1895. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated uniform service conditions for departmental engineers and engineering officers of telecom factories and directly recruit engineers; if not, reasons therefor;

(b) whether due to lack of such uniform policy the direct recruits are getting advantageous position over their counter-parts in the factories in the matter of promotion and other related matters;

(c) whether there is serious discontent amongst the departmental officers;

(d) whether Government have received representations from Telecom engineering Officers Association;

(e) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(f) what further action Government have contemplated to redress the grievances of departmental engineering officers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes Sir. There is no difference between the service conditions of Departmental Engineers and directly recruited Engineers of the same grade in Telecom Factories.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) to (f) No, Sir, there is no serious discontent amongst the departmental officers. However, a representation has been received from "Telecom Factories' Engineers Association" regarding the promotional avenues, increments in case of engineering officers acquiring engineering degree etc. This representation is under examination.

There is no recognised association by the name "Telecom Engineering Officers' Association".

Disruption of telephones in Janakpuri exchanges

1896. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of telephones in Janakpuri exchange remained out of order for about one week during February, 1992;

(b) if so, what was the exact number of such telephones and for how many days they were unserviceable;

(c) what are the reasons for this long disruption;

(d) what steps are being taken to ensure that such incidents will not happen in future; and

(e) what is the relief, if any, that is available to consumers for the loss and inconvenience caused by such faults?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Only sevently three telephones were affected from 15.2.92 to 22.2.92.

(c) Digging carried out by cable laying agency caused multiple faults in the cable which were repaired after localisation of faults.

(d) Proper liasion is being kept with the cable laying agencies to prevent such faults in future.

(e) Rebate in rental is granted to all cases where interruption is for more than one week.

Theft of telephone cables in Delhi

1897. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi police has recently caught a good number of persons who were involved in telephone cable thefts;

(b) if so, whether the MTNL employees in connivance with other local people have made attempts to steal telephone cables in Delhi;

(c) if so, the details, and facts thereof; and

(d) what further steps are contemplated by Government to maintain strict vigil on MTNL employees/cable thefts in the Capital?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir. A few persons have been apprehended by the police recently in this connection at the initiative of MTNL employees.

(b) and (c) In one case during January, 1992 at the initiative of an MTNL Officer, five persons including three MTNL employees suspected to be involved in cable theft from departmental cable store were arrested by Paschim Vihar Police.

(d) The following steps have been taken:

(i) Patrolling of important cable routes.

(ii) Double locking of manhole covers.

(iii) Laying of cables in concrete in open culverts.

(iv) Close co-ordination with police authorities.

Details of Telephone Exchanges in Rajasthan

1898. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the particulars of the new Telephone Exchanges in Rajasthan proposal to be set up during the year 1992-93;

(b) the details of the Exchanges that are planned to be upgraded and converted into digital or electronic system;

(c) what is the programme for the installation of rural automatic exchanges in the tribal areas of Rajasthan;

(d) what are the details of the conversion of Manual to Automatic exchanges; and

(e) what are the details the new Telegraph offices planned to be opened during the above period particularly in the tribal areas;

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) About 50 New Telephone Exchanges are expected to be opened in Rajasthan during the year 1992-93.

(b) About 150 No. of existing telephone exchanges of Electro Mechanical type are proposed to be upgraded and converted into Electronic Exchanges during 1992-93.

(c) Rural automatic exchanges are proposed to be installed duiring 1992-93 in the following tribal places of Rajasthan:

1. Salamgarh	District	Chittorgarh
2. Dalot	,,	,,
3. Mada	District	Banswara
4. Ghodaji ka Gudda	,,	,,
5. Sallopat	,,	,,
6. Chinch	,,	,,

(d) About 55 No. of Manual Telephone Exchanges in Rajasthan are likely to be converted into Automatic Exchanges during 1992-93.

(e) About 8 new Telegraph Offices are planned to be set up during 1992-93 in Rajasthan out of which one Telegraph office is planned at Dungarpur District Headquarters which is a tribal area.

Loss to Postal Department due to Strike

1899. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 78 given in the Rajya Sabha on 25th February 1992 and state:

(a) what was the total loss to the Postal Department due to D-Grade postal employees strike in the North Eastern States;

(b) whether their demands have been met; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha.

(b) The demand of the Group 'C' and 'D' postal employees in the North Eastern region is that they may be paid